

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF DELTA**  
Public Meeting Room B  
Delta Township Administration Building  
7710 West Saginaw Highway  
Lansing MI 48917

**TOWNSHIP BOARD COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES**  
**MONDAY, MAY 13, 2013**

**I. CALL TO ORDER –**

Supervisor Fletcher called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL –**

Members Present: Supervisor Kenneth Fletcher, Treasurer Howard Pizzo, Clerk Mary Clark, and Trustees Jeff Hicks, Dennis Fedewa, Karen Mojica and R. Douglas Kosinski

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Manager Richard Watkins, Deputy Manager Jen Roberts, Community Development Director Mark Graham and Utility Director Tom Morrissey

**III. SET/ADJUST AGENDA –**

Trustee Kosinski moved the agenda be approved as amended, adding Huntington Acres/Webster Road Water Project. Trustee Hicks supported the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT – None.**

**V. COMMUNICATONS – None.**

**VI. PRESENTATIONS – None.**

**VII. MANAGER’S REPORT – None.**

**VIII. DEPARTMENT REPORT –**

Utility Director Tom Morrissey shared the spreadsheet of recent bids for the Huntington Acres/Broadbent Road water main replacement project. Tom explained the low bid was from Balkema Excavating out of Kalamazoo at \$1,997,026.75. Engineer estimates put the project at \$2.1M. Reference checks for Balkema are underway. Tom asked the Board members to contact him or Township Engineer Gary Arnold this week if there are any questions. The Board will be asked to approve the project at the May 20<sup>th</sup> board meeting so the bulk of the work can be completed during the summer months when school buses are not on the streets.

**IX. ITEMS OF DISCUSSION –**

**1. Fireworks Ordinance Discussion –**

Manager Richard Watkins stated information was back from the township attorney regarding the changes to the fireworks definition which must be changed in our code of ordinances because of the fireworks law that went into effect in 2012. Additionally he shared our legal counsel felt other existing ordinances giving the Fire Chief the authority to control all burning under certain conditions and the existing noise ordinance would give the Township authority to address noise and fire hazard conditions we experienced last year. Discussion ensued and the general thought was to use the existing tools to control the potential fireworks issues this summer and then revisit the issue at a later date.

**2. Non-Discrimination Ordinance Discussion –**

Travis Radina, 6150 West Michigan Avenue, thanked the Board for taking up the issue of non-discrimination protections for gay and transgender residents and their families. He introduced Gina Calcagno, Field Organizer for Unity Michigan to speak to the efforts underway.

Gina Calcagno thanked the Board for allowing her to speak. The Unity Michigan coalition was formed by local government leaders and concerned residents of numerous communities to address the absence of non-discrimination protections for members of the LGBT community and their families. East Lansing passed such an ordinance 40 years ago, City of Lansing several years ago, and local municipalities who do not have such protections in their ordinances are being asked to pass such protections. These local municipalities include Delta Charter Township, Delhi Charter Township, and Meridian Charter Township. Gina asked anyone with questions to contact her at their convenience.

Shawn Dhanak, 402 Elmshaven, addressed the Board regarding the proposal for a non-discrimination ordinance and expressed his support for the proposal. He was shocked to learn that such an ordinance was not already in place.

Joshua Lavigne, 5550 Mall Drive West, Apt 3134, stated his support for the ordinance simply on the grounds of justice.

County Commissioner Howard T. Spence, 1637 Willow Creek, voiced his support for the adoption of the ordinance and provided written communication to the Board regarding same.

Clerk Clark supports the proposed ordinance and feels the adoption would speak very highly of Delta Township and the progressiveness of the Township.

Trustee Kosinski supports the introduction of the ordinance and does not feel that the matter should be politically motivated but rather a needed acknowledgement that any form of discrimination is wrong.

Trustee Mojica feels the Township should be progressive as with other communities and supports the ordinance.

Trustee Fedewa supports the ordinance and the intent of the language.

Trustee Hicks expressed some concerns over the 18 various classes included in the language that are already protected classes. He does support adding the new unprotected class, LGBT, in question. Trustee Hicks feels that there are some additional clarifications that need to be made regarding enforcement of the ordinance and township officials potentially overreaching. Additionally, the filing of a false report of discrimination should have consequences as well. Trustee Hicks provided caution regarding small businesses being inadvertently penalized under the currently proposed language.

Clerk Clark requested copies of recently passed ordinances from other municipalities for review and comparison.

Following further discussion, Supervisor Fletcher suggested the matter return for further discussion at the June 3<sup>rd</sup> Board Meeting as Trustee Hicks is scheduled to be absent from the May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **3. Strategic Planning Discussion –**

Supervisor Fletcher indicated that the goal this evening was to set the level of priorities on the goals depicted in the Strategic Plan. This action would then permit staff members to explore possibilities for each goal and prioritize staff time and township resources.

The timeline increments assigned to each item listed are 1 year, 3 year, or 5 year priority.

The materials will now go to the staff members for implementation and bring forward proposals for action to the Board as necessary for completion and implementation.

\* \* \*

Treasurer Pizzo raised the issue of the Michigan Flyer Proposal to Tri-County Regional Planning Commission and he has received several emails on the issue. Two of the emails were supportive of the Board's position being opposed to Michigan Flyer receiving federal money to compete with our airport and one

against the Board's position. Howard T. Spence wrote a letter in support of the Michigan Flyer Proposal in part due to the increased expense to fly Lansing.

\* \* \*

Manager Watkins has asked the Delta Township Library Board for funding toward the pathway from their Capital Campaign. The Library Board is contributing \$40,000 toward the project.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

Supervisor Fletcher adjourned the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF DELTA

MARY R. CLARK, CLERK

KENNETH FLETCHER, SUPERVISOR